

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending, wherein Claims 1-13 have been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication at pages 5-6 of the Office Action that Claims 5-13 contain allowable subject matter.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action, at page 2, the drawings were objected to. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this objection. Ring gap segments 33, 34, and end spacer plates 16, as shown in originally filed Figs. 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A, are now described in replacement paragraph [0002], provided above.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings are not objectionable, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection thereto.

All Claims Comply With 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, at pages 2-4, Claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Applicant and the undersigned have carefully reviewed the Office Action, the remarks therein concerning the clarity of the claims, and all of the pending claims. Applicant has attempted to specifically address each of the comments in the Office Action concerning the claims' clarity, and respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as reciting subject matter which is allegedly obvious, and therefore allegedly

unpatentable, over Applicant's admitted prior art (Figures 1A and 1B) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,712,085, issued to Willyoung. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a turbo generator comprising a rotor with direct gas cooling, and said rotor including a rotor winding arranged around a central rotor body, said rotor winding being covered on front sides by an annular cap plate, and in which rotor cooling gas for cooling the rotor flows into ring gap segments of a ring gap between the rotor winding and the rotor body. The ring gap segments are bordered in a circumferential direction, on sides of the ring gap segments in each case by a section of an end spacer plate provided between the annular cap plate and the rotor winding. Sections of the end spacer plates project into the ring gap and are shaped to avoid separations of the cooling gas stream flowing into the ring gap past said sections.

The Office Action recognizes that Figures 1A/1B of the Applicant's disclosure fail to disclose the design of the end spacer plates. However, the Office Action relies upon the outer ring 9 disclosed in Willyoung '085 for allegedly disclosing an end spacer plate having curved side edges that are provided with a bevel. Applicant respectfully submits that Willyoung '085 fails to disclose or suggest any end spacer plate provided between an annular cap plate and the rotor winding, wherein sections of the end spacer plate project into a ring gap between the rotor winding and the rotor body, with the sections of the end spacer plates being shaped to avoid separations of the cooling gas stream flowing into the ring gap past the sections. As clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Willyoung '085, the lock ring 9 upon which the Office Action relies for a disclosure of a beveled side edge, is clearly not an end spacer plate provided between an annular cap plate and the rotor winding, and furthermore the lock ring 9 does not include any section extending into a ring gap between the rotor winding and the rotor body and shaped to avoid separations of the cooling gas stream flowing into the ring gap past the sections. As can be seen clearly in Fig. 1 of Willyoung '085, the lock ring 9 does not extend in a radially inward direction past the inner diameter of the winding 2, and therefore Willyoung '085 does not disclose or suggest an end spacer plate provided between an annular cap plate and the rotor winding, wherein sections of the end spacer plate project into the ring gap between the rotor winding and the

rotor body. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1, and hence dependent Claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-4 are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 1, from which they depend, and moreover for the additional features that they recite. In particular, Willyoung '085 does not disclose or suggest a warm gas chamber defined on the sides by two axial, parallel chamber walls and by end spacer plates with beveled or rounded sections on a front side that terminates flush with the chamber walls. (Claim 4).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4, each taken as a whole, patentably define over the prior art. Applicant therefore submits that Claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is respectfully solicited. If Examiner Aguirrechea believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William O. Trousdell
William O. Trousdell
Registration No. 38,637

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
703.838.6519

Date: March 10, 2003